IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Palanpur to Gandhidham, of which Palanpur to Samakhiyali is a part, has already been included in the budget 1988-99 at a cost of Rs. 318 crs. and the work would be taken up as soon as the requisite clearances have been obtained.

Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej from Ahmedabad to Virar

1521. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken on the survey report of gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej route from Ahmedabad to Virar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The conversion of Bharuch-Dahej line is already included in the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar, the survey report is under examination in consultation with the railway and once the results of the survey are finalised, requisite clearances would be sought for taking up the work.

Yatri Seva agents for Railway bookings

1522. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Seva agents working for railway bookings, particularly in backward/rural/tribal areas of North Eastern Region, including Assam;

(b) whether representations regarding authorising more agents in this State have been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of applications received in this regard and the number, out of them, accorded approval; and

(e) by when the remaining applications would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) At present 18 Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are working in the North Eastern Region including Assam.

(b) to (c) Zonal railways call for applications for appointment of RTSAs as and when the need is felt by the railway. No application has been called for by Northeast Frontier Railway in the recent past for appointment of RTSAs. However, some applications have been received directly through various sources for appointment of RTSAs on which no action can be taken.

Construction of double lines in various Railway Zones

1523. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct double rail lines in various Railway Zones during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the full details thereof, Zone-wise/State-wise; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information in this regard is available in the White Paper which has already been tabled in the Parliament on 28.7.1998.

आबू रोड स्थित बड़ी रेल लाइन पर रेल दुर्घटनाएं

1524. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान नई दिल्ली और आबू रोड के बीच स्थित बड़ी रेल लाइन पर माल और यात्री गाड़ियों की कुल कितनी रेल दुर्घटनाएं तथा रेल गाड़ियों के पटरी से उतरने की घटनाएं हुई;

(ख) उक्त रेल लाइन में पटरी बिछाने और नींव में कितनी कमियां एवं कमजोरियां पाई गई, यदि हां, तो क्या दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरूद्ध कार्रवाई की गई है; और

(ग) क्या इन रेल दुर्घटनाओं की जांच कराई गई और यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला तथा इस संबंध में रेल विभाग द्वारा क्या कार्रवाई की गई?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान दिल्ली-आबूरोड पर हुई रेल दुर्घटनाओं की संख्या 5 थी।

उत्तर रेलवे — कुछ नहीं।

पश्चिम रेलवे — 5

पश्चिम रेलवे पर मालडिब्बों के पटरी से उतरने की संख्या — 5

पश्चिम रेलवे पर सवारी डिब्बों के पटरी से उतरने की संख्या — 19

(ख) बड़ी रेल लाइन के निर्माण में कोई गलती नहीं है।

(ग) संयुक्त जांच की गई थी और 4 दुर्घटनाओं के मामले में दुर्घटना का कारण कर्मचारियों की गलती तथा दुर्घटना का कारण खराब सामग्री था। एक मामले को छोड़कर शेष 4 मामलों में दोषी पाए गए कर्मचारियों को पहले ही सजा दी जा चुकी है।

Cheapest and shortest route to Sabari Railway

1525. SHRI M. J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider the cheapest and the shortest route to Sabari Railway, presented by the Pradama Grama Vikasana Samity, Uzhavoor, Kottayam, Kerala (Ankamali, Kalady, Perumbavoor, Muvettapuzha, Kuuthattukulam, Uzhavoor, Palai and Punaloon); and

(b) if so, the detials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Final Location Survey for proposed Angamali-Sabarimala route is now being taken up. The Railway is being asked to consider the route suggested by the Pradama Grama Vikasana Samity, Uzhavoor as one of the alternative routes while carrying out the above survey.

The line would be constructed along the best alignment found during the above survey.

Production capacity of Rail factories in Ajmer

1526. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of Rail factories (Loco and Carriage) in Ajmer and the real production achieved as per the targets during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the plans for renovation of rail factories located in Ajmer and the provision made for the year 1998-99?